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DISCUSSION OUTLINE OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IN  
FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE NORTHEAST

As generally practiced in the Northeast, "Farm and Home Development" represents an expansion of the county program of work to help farm families with their individual management problems, and to improve their decision-making ability. It rounds out the local program by giving greater attention to the kinds of problems on farms and in homes that cannot be adequately met by mass methods and general recommendations. The following activities will serve to illustrate how the work is being done in the different counties. Several of these activities may be found in any one county.

I. Organized Group Planning with Selected Families

This is designed to help a small group of farm families work individually on a complete farm and home program in line with their own goals and resources. Standard forms are used as guides to help them think through step by step the development of their plan.

II. Planning with Special Interest Groups

This is designed to help meet the management problems of specialized types of farming, such as poultry, fruit, etc. Each group requires special background information and planning forms to fit their system of farming. Considerable emphasis is placed on business analysis and evaluation of alternatives. A similar approach may be used with part-time and rural non-farm families, with the emphasis on the home and family living.

III. Planning with Groups to Meet a Specific Problem

This is designed to help individuals meet important current problems common to a number of farmers, such as adjustments to changes in farm programs, prices, and market situations; and the introduction of new things into an already well-established business. Examples are --

1. Planning a forage program in line with individual farm needs and resources.
2. Planning by individuals on when and how to shift to bulk handling of milk.
3. Planning on land use for the individual farms in a watershed area.

IV. Planning with Individual Farm Families

This is designed to help meet the requests for assistance made by individual families, many of which cannot be met through group activities. It might also be a follow-up to group activity or a way to get started with a family. Examples are --

1. A program and operating agreement for a father-son combination.
2. A program for a family getting established on a new farm.
3. A program for a family in a critical financial situation.

NOTE: It is assumed that an active general educational program in the county must go along with the above planning activities to help them carry out their plans and programs, and to provide the current technical, economic, and farm program information needed for continuous sound planning and management.

Outline prepared by L. M. Vaughan, Federal Extension Service, for discussion at New England Farm and Home Development Conference, Durham, N. H., July 12-14, 1955.







